

Message Text

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43

ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6161

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CZ

SUBJECT: REVISION OF CZECHOSLOVAK CUSTOMS LAW

REF: PRAGUE 874 AND 943

1. DURING SESSION REPORTED IN REFTELS, FEDERAL ASSEMBLY ALSO APPROVED THOROUGH REVISION OF CZECHOSLOVAK CUSTOMS LAW IN EFFECT SINCE 1953. NEW LAW IS SAID TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INCREASES IN FOREIGN TRADE AND TOURISM SINCE 1953 AND TO INCREASE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES'S CONTROL OVER FOREIGN TRADE. IT WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1975.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF BILL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BARCAK SAID THAT PRINCIPAL AIMS OF REVISION WERE TO ENSURE THAT STATE MONOPOLY ON FOREIGN TRADE WAS MAINTAINED AND TO ENFORCE GREATER COMPLIANCE BY FOREIGN TRADE ENTERPRISES WITH MINISTRY POLICIES ON LEVELS OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS. BARCAK STATED THAT NEW LAW, BASED ON EXPERIENCES OF OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, WAS AIMED AT CONTROL FUNCTION OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION RATHER THAN AT FISCAL POLICY.

3. TEXT OF NEW LAW IS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT AS FAR AS EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, LAW WILL NOT AFFECT TARIFFS OR CUSTOMS FEES.

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